



ACTION! Movie-Themed Group Tour

It is no surprise that movie directors have taken advantage of the natural beauty of the High Country. This day tour will take you through the beautiful mountains and to the historic buildings that have caught a producer's eye. The area also has inspired a movie-themed park and famous books! Consider adding this day tour onto another itinerary.

The Land of Oz: Visit Dorothy's house where it fell from the sky, follow the Yellow Brick Road and much more at the former **Wizard of Oz** theme park. Located on Beech Mountain, the highest town in Eastern America, The Land of Oz offers group tours and has a picnic lunch option. (HINT: Visit the park the first week of October for the Autumn at Oz festival and see the characters!) (2 hrs)

Grandfather Mountain: On your drive to the Mile High Swinging Bridge, you will go around the **Forrest Gump** Curve, complete with sign. This curve was used to film Tom Hanks during Gump's run across America. The nature preserve also houses a native animal habitat where you may spot a bear cub, or a panther and see otters playing. The nature museum and films speak about the many aspects of the mountain, including endangered species, priceless gems, unique weather, and colorful wildflowers and birds. There is a restaurant, gift shop and hiking trails. Arrangements can be made for a naturalist to escort your group. (3 hrs)

Blue Ridge Parkway: Take the Parkway North and cross over the Linn Cove Viaduct, recently used in the film **Safe Haven**. This engineering marvel was built around the mountain, instead of on the mountain, to minimize impact. The views from this part of the Parkway are breathtaking. (30 min)

Moses Cone Manor: The 13,000 square foot mansion was built in 1901 in the Grand Colonial Revival style. The mansion was used in the film **Green Mile** as the Georgia Pines Nursing Home. The Manor is now home to the Parkway Craft Center which showcases handmade goods of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. Guided tours of the house are available seasonally. (1.5 hrs)

The Green Park Inn: The Inn was built in 1891 and while no movies have been filmed here, a number of legendary guests have visited this historic property. **Marilyn Monroe**, James Stewart, Annie Oakley, the sharpshooter and star of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and Margaret Mitchell (who penned part of "Gone With the Wind" while a guest of the hotel) are just a few of the famous guests of the Green Park Inn. The Inn houses the Divide Tavern and the Chestnut Grill (opening May 2013) ran by award winning and James Beard Foundation nominee Chef James Welch. (1.5 hrs)

For more information on touring the High Country, contact:



High Country Host

1-800-438-7500

www.mountainsofnc.com